

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /072 W

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R 122240Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3684

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2131

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, DR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S MOVES TO STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 2106

1. PRESIDENT MAY 12 NAMED ARMY BRIGADIER GENERAL JUAN RENE BEAUCHAMPS JAVIER AS SECRETARY OF STATE OF ARMED FORCES AND BRIGADIER GENERAL BRAULIO ALVAREZ SANCHEZ AS ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF. APPOINTMENT OF THESE TWO BALAGUER LOYALISTS ROUNDS OUT COMMAND STRUCTURE IN AFTERMATH OF RESIGNATION FOUR TOP MILITARY LEADERS.

2. DURING THE PERIOD SINCE THE RESIGNATIONS, THE PRESIDENT HAS MOVED SERENELY AND CONFIDENTLY, ALTERNATING BETWEEN ATTENTION TO HIS NORMAL DUTIES AND APPOINTING NEW COMMANDERS. BEHIND THE SCENES, HOWEVER, HE TOOK A NUMBER OF PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO ASSURE HIS CONTROL OF THE SITUATION. AMONG THE MORE IMPORTANT WERE:

A. IMMEDIATELY AFTER RECEIVING RESIGNATIONS MAY 9, PRESIDENT CALLED IN GENERAL NIVAR AND REQUESTED THAT NATIONAL POLICE BE PUT ON ALERT.

B. ORDERED GENERAL NIVAR TO CHECK ON LOYALTY OF VARIOUS BATTALION LEVEL COMMANDERS.

C. HAD FIRING PINS REMOVED FROM ARTILLERY PIECES IN SANTO DOMINGO.

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D. PERSONALLY ORDERED GEN. CUERVO GOMEZ, CMDR. OF VERY

KEY COMBAT SUPPORT COMMAND, TO ACCEPT ORDERS ONLY FROM HIMSELF.

E. ISSUED ORDERS MAY 10 CONFINING TROOPS TO BARRACKS.

F. DISPATCHED A THREE MAN PARTIDO REFORMISTA (PR)

DELEGATION TO SOLICIT SUPPORT OF PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO SOCIAL
CRISTIANO (PRSC) AND PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO DOMINICANO (PRD).

(PRSC SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED STATEMENT FAVORING CONSTITUTIONALITY
BUT PRD REFUSED TO BACK BALAGUER UNLESS HE CHANGED HIS POLICIES.)

G. WORKING THROUGH GENERAL SANTOS MELIDO MARTE PICHARDO,
PRESIDENT OBTAINED DOCUMENT SIGNED BY ALL SENIOR OFFICERS,
SUPPORTING RECENT MEASURES HE HAD TAKEN. DOCUMENT PUBLISHED
MAY 12 AS PAID AD IN ALL SANTO DOMINGO NEWSPAPERS.

2. COMMENT. THESE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AND DOUBTLESSLY
OTHERS OF WHICH EMBASSY UNAWARE, DEMONSTRATE THAT PRESIDENT
TOOK A NUMBER OF SMALL, CAREFUL, BEHIND-THE-SCENES STEPS
TO ASSURE THAT HE WOULD EMERGE VICTORIOUS FROM THE
CONFRONTATION.

HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

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